

# Aspiring Teacher Grants 2021

## Fact Sheet

### ***Looking for a challenging and creative career where you can make a real difference?***

The *Aspiring Teacher Grant* provides financial support of \$2,500 for up to 25 high-achieving Year 12 graduates who receive an ATAR of 88.75 or higher, and commence an undergraduate initial teacher education program in 2021. A further five grants are available for a one-off payment of \$5,000 for Year 12 graduates coming from a rural or remote location.

#### **Teaching as a career**

Teaching is an important and well regarded profession within our community, and people from all walks of life find it a rewarding career choice.

Teachers make a significant and long-lasting difference to the lives of their students, and it is usually a teacher who inspired us to achieve our best and make the most of our abilities. It is this ability to make a difference in students' lives that makes teaching a wonderful and unique career.

There are many reasons motivating people to choose teaching as a career, including:

- making a difference in the lives of young people
- combining creativity and intellectual challenge
- sharing their passion for learning
- gaining personal fulfilment and a sense of achievement.

#### **Studying Teaching**

Qualifications, such as a Bachelor of Education, which provide the necessary skills, knowledge and experiences for those entering the teaching profession, are referred to as preservice or initial teacher education (ITE) programs.

An ITE program combines academic studies with periods of professional experience in schools and educational settings to ensure graduates are ready to commence their teaching career.

A list of approved ITE programs is available on the [Queensland College of Teachers website](#).

#### **Eligibility**

To be eligible for an *Aspiring Teacher Grant*, applicants must:

- successfully complete Year 12 at a Queensland state or non-state school in 2020
- obtain an ATAR of 88.75 or higher in their Year 12 studies
- commence an ITE program at a Queensland Higher Education Institution in Semester 1, 2021
- have not already been offered or accepted a scholarship or grant from the Department to support their tertiary studies
- be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or have permanent residency status in Australia.

#### **Rural and Remote applications**

In addition to the general eligibility criteria, to be eligible for the \$5,000 Rural and Remote *Aspiring Teacher grant* category, the applicant's family residential address at the time of application must fall within the catchment area of a Queensland state school with a Transfer Rating\* of TR3-TR7 as per the Department of Education [Schools Directory](#).

Priority selection will be given to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and students who reside in drought affected areas in these rural or remote locations. Drought declared regions can be viewed on the [drought situation map](#) provided by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

#### **Grant Funds**

Successful applications will receive a one-off payment during the first semester of study. The grant seeks to assist with study-related expenses such as a computer, text books or stationery. For students from rural or remote locations, the funds can be used to assist with additional expenses often incurred such as moving from their home to undertake study. Funds will be paid as a lump sum after census date along with written evidence of enrolment in course subjects in Semester 1, 2021 has been provided.

Although this grant has no guarantee of employment following completion of the ITE course, it may impact on the recipient's assessable income or benefits. Applicants are encouraged to seek independent financial advice regarding their own circumstances or check with the Australian Taxation Office ([ATO Scholarships Calculator](#)) which may be able to assist.

#### **How to Apply**

Detailed information about these and other Scholarships and Grants, including the online application process is available at: [www.teach.qld.gov.au](http://www.teach.qld.gov.au).

#### **Enquiries**

Specific enquiries for this grant can be directed to the Scholarships and Grants team, Human Resources by email to [scholarships@ged.qld.gov.au](mailto:scholarships@ged.qld.gov.au) or contact us by phone on: (07) 3055 2991.

#### **\* Transfer ratings**

*Each school is assigned a transfer rating from 1–7, which is determined by remoteness, access to and the level of community services, complexity of the school environment, along with organisational staffing requirements.*

*Transfer ratings are used by the department as the basis for determining teacher transfer requests as well as eligibility for incentives and benefits offered to teachers.*

**Applications close 11 December 2020**

Ref: 20/505702